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ERRATA.

- April, 1890 (vol. v, no 4 of MOD. LANG. NOTES),
 Col. 219, v. 309, for 15 read 13.
 v. 311, for 16 read 15.
 Col. 220, v. 336, for *seint* read *seint*.
 Col. 221, v. 437, for *vendrom* read *vendrom*.

BRIEF MENTION.

The eighth number of 'Erlanger Beiträge zur englischen Philologie,' hrsg. von H. Varnhagen, is a tabulation of proverbial sayings in the works of CHAUCER: "Das Sprichwort bei Chaucer. Zugleich ein Beitrag zur vergleichenden Sprichwörterkunde. Von WILLI HAECKEL." If CHAUCER'S "saying" is found, or corresponds to anything, in the principal collections of proverbs compiled for English and for European languages, reference is made to these collections. In the arrangement of the material three principal divisions are made: I, "Sichere Sprichwörter und sprichwörtliche Redensarten; II, Zweifelhafte Sprichwörter, etc.; III, Anspielungen auf Sprichwörter," etc. The subdivision of the first general chapter will further indicate the author's method: "A. 1. Solche welche Gemeingut mehrerer Sprache sind; B. solche welche anderweitig nicht belegt sind, aber von Chaucer ausdrücklich als Sprichwörter bezeichnet werden." Under A. 1. the "sayings" relate to "1. Liebe, Freundschaft; 2. Glück, Unglück, stetiger Wechsel im Geschick des Menschen; 3. Armut, Reichtum; 4. Geiz, Begehrlichkeit; 5. Müßiggang, Arbeit; 6. Fleiss, Beharrlichkeit, Geduld; 7. Reden, Schweigen; 8. Thorheit, Weisheit; 9. Erfahrung, Vorsicht, Klugheit, Vernunft; 10. Entschlossenheit, Eile, Weile, Mass; 11. Rat, Urteil; 12. Zwang, Notwendigkeit; 13. Gleichheit, Ähnlichkeit, Verschiedenheit; 14. Wahrheit, Aufrichtigkeit; 15. Lüge, Täuschung, Betrug; 16. Sünde, Verbrechen; 17. Vergänglichkeit, Leben, Tod; 18. Ehe; 19. Sprichwörtliche Redensarten, welche keiner der erwähnten Kategorien angehören." The author has accomplished a task for which all students of CHAUCER will be grateful. If slight omissions are discovered CHAUCER may himself plead extenuation:

"No man at the fyrste stroke
 Ne maye nat fele downe an oke."

'Pure Saxon English, or Americans to the front,' by ELIAS MOLEE, author of 'A Plea for an American Language' (Chicago and New York: Rand, McNally & Co., 1890) is the work of a "philanthropically inclined" man who has "been pondering, for the last twenty-five years, over the idea how we might work up into a true, beautiful, and good language." He offers a solution of the difficult problem of radically undoing the history of the language, by venturing a curious manipulation of "the precious Saxon element"—"for the rest is only brought in by oppression, cruelty and pedantry." In a word a new language is constructed—such as never existed indeed, and (the author will pardon the assurance) such as never can exist. It is another World-Language—one of those Volapük-Pasilingua-Kosmos creations. The book is a marvel of misdirected industry and good-will. Let it be read in charity by those who choose to read it, while the author may reflect on a profound truth to which FELIX DAHN has given the following expression: "Es giebt nicht, gab nie und wird nie geben eine allgemeine abstracte Menschheitssprache oder eine allgemein menschliche Kunst: sondern die Potenz der Sprache, die Auffassung des Schönen wird überall verwirklicht in einer nationalen und geschichtlich bedingten Färbung." In spite of the author's attempt to build upon the primitive national basis of the language, he commits, just as surely as his associates in the craft of language-making, those arbitrary and unlawful acts which can never call a language into being. The world-language advocates may with safety appropriate the words of Jarvis ("The Good-natured Man"): "This same philosophy is a good horse in the stable, but an arrant jade on a journey," but in all seriousness it will be agreed that it isn't even "a good horse in the stable."

The publishers of 'Webster's Unabridged Dictionary' (Messrs. G. & C. Merriam & Co., Springfield, Mass.) have now ready for distribution a new and revised edition of that work with a new and appropriate title: 'Webster's International Dictionary.' In a subsequent issue of this journal a more extended notice of this important work will be given; for the present it may be sufficient to allow the publishers to make the following statements:—